

XII.—Obituary.

MR. WILLIAM BORRER and MR. J. VAN VOORST.

MR. WILLIAM BORRER, of Brook Hill, Cowfold, Horsham, who died at a ripe age on the 22nd of October, 1898, was one of the old school of British ornithologists. He was educated at St. Peter's College, Cambridge (B.A. 1838, M.A. 1841), and even in his undergraduate days he took a keen interest in natural history. The continuance of this taste may be seen by the frequent mention of his name in the works of Knox, Gould, Yarrell, and others, as well as in the pages of 'The Zoologist.' His *magnum opus* is 'The Birds of Sussex,' a very interesting volume—with a coloured plate of his great treasure, the Gyr-Falcon—published in 1891. He was elected to the B.O.U. in 1878. In private life he was a most estimable and genial man.

JOHN VAN VOORST.—Although Mr. Van Voorst was not a member of the British Ornithologists' Union, the death of the publisher of 'The Ibis,' since its first appearance in 1859, must not pass unnoticed by us. Mr. Van Voorst, who was of Dutch descent, was born in 1804, and was therefore in his ninety-fifth year at the time of his decease, on the 24th of July last. As a publisher of works of high class on various branches of natural history he was without a rival; and, in our special line, it is hardly necessary to mention the classic editions of Yarrell's 'British Birds'; while Hewitson's 'Eggs of British Birds,' Knox's 'Birds of Sussex' and 'Game-birds and Wild-fowl,' did much to stimulate a taste for ornithology and oology in bygone days. The later works he published need not be enumerated. Van Voorst retired from business in 1886, but he retained his interest in old friends and old topics until within the last few months of his life.